

PAPERS READ

BEFORE THE

LANCASTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

JANUARY 14, 1910.

"History herself, as seen in her own workshop."

MINUTES OF JANUARY MEETING.

IN MEMORIAM.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR 1910.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

VOL. XIV. NO. 1.

LANCASTER, PA.
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Minutes of January Meeting.

Lancaster, Pa., Jan. 14, 1910.

The Lancaster County Historical Society held its first meeting for the new year this evening in the Y. M. C. A. Building. There was a fair attendance of members. President Steinman presided, with nearly all the other officers present.

The Secretary, Charles B. Hollinger, read his annual report, and, on motion of Mr. Diffenderffer, it was accepted and ordered filed.

The report of the Treasurer, Mr. A. K. Hostetter, showed the total receipts for the year to be \$433.00, and the expenditures, \$273.04, leaving a balance of \$159.94.

A committee composed of Miss Clark and Messrs. Magee and Erisman audited the accounts of the Treasurer and Secretary, and found them correct.

Two new members were proposed, Dr. Henry Alfred Mowery and Isabella Weaver Mowery, both of Marietta.

The Librarian announced the following donations since the last meeting: "Commissioners for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies, minutes Albany County Board, 1778-1781," Vol. I and Vol. II, 836 pages, from New York State; Bureau of American Ethnology, Bulletin 38, "Unwritten Literature of Hawaii," Bulletin 39, "Tlingit Myths and Texts," U. S. Government Printing Office; "Ye Olde Mint," Frank H. Stewart, Philadelphia; "Huguenot Element in Pennsyl-

vania," James B. Laux; six dissertations prepared by candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, from the Library of Columbia University; "Conflict Over Judicial Powers in United States to 1870," by Charles Grove Haines; "The Letters of Alcuin," by Ralph Barlow Page; "Enforcement of the Statutes of Labourers, 1349-1359," by Bertha Haven Putnam; "Transportation and Industrial Development in the Middle West," by William F. Gebhart; "The Province of New Jersey, 1664-1738," by Edwin P. Tanner; "New Hampshire as a Royal Province," William Henry Fry; Pennsylvania-German for December, 1909; "The Palmyra Academy," Rev. John W. Early, Lebanon County Historical Society; proceedings, January 26 to October 26, 1909, of Cambridge, Mass., Historical Society; American Catholic Historical Researches for January, 1910; also, Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia for June, 1909; "The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography," January, 1910, from the Historical Society of Pennsylvania; "Annals of Iowa," October, 1909, State of Iowa; old geography, 1787, and old deeds, autograph letters of De Witt Clinton and Dolly Madison, Miss Josephine Franklin; "Sally Hastings' Poems" and "Quebec Campaign of John Joseph Henry," B. Penn Gaskell McGrann; "Rupp's History of Lancaster County," with the name of William Beates, written in 1844, Miss Kate Beates, of Kennett Square; genealogical records of George Small, Philip Albright, Johann Daniel Dunkel, Thomas Bartow, William Geddes Latimer, Daniel Benezet, John Reid, Jean Crommelin, Joel Richardson, compiled by Samuel Small, Jr., donated by Geo. R. Prowell.

for the York County Historical Society.

On motion, the corresponding secretary, Miss Clark, was instructed to extend by mail the thanks of the Society to several of the donors.

As it was the annual meeting, election of officers was in order, and, on motion, the Secretary was instructed to cast the ballot for the following: President, George Steinman; Vice Presidents, F. R. Diffenderffer, Litt.D., Joseph H. Dubbs, D.D.; Secretary, C. B. Hollinger; Corresponding Secretary, Miss Martha B. Clark; Treasurer, A. K. Hostetter; Librarian, Charles T. Steigerwalt; Executive Committee, Richard M. Reilly, Esq., W. U. Hensel, Esq., George F. K. Erisman, D. B. Landis, H. Frank Eshleman, Esq., Mrs. Sarah B. Carpenter, Monroe B. Hirsh, Miss Lottie Bausman, L. B. Herr and John L. Summy.

Mr. F. R. Diffenderffer reported from the recent convention of the State Federation of Historical Societies held at Harrisburg. The local Society had the largest representation at the gathering and it received much recognition. The Society was also honored by having one of its officers, Mr. Diffenderffer, chosen President of the State Federation. The report presented to the convention by H. Frank Eshleman, Esq., on the preservation of old documents was highly commended, it having been the first of its kind ever presented to the federation.

On motion of Mr. Eshleman, a committee was appointed to "examine and report fully upon the Lancaster Borough assessments down to the end of the eighteenth century, and especially to report upon their condition, the extent of their existence to-day, and all the statistical facts now extant in them."

The committee as named is composed of Messrs. Diffenderffer, Hostetter and Magee.

Mr. Steigerwalt reported on the condition of the library. The changes in the library building necessitated the removal of the Society to another room, and it is expected that within another month our quarters will be in completed condition.

The committee to locate the first permanent settlement in Lancaster county, through Mr. Eshleman, stated that their report would likely be ready for presentation at the February meeting.

On motion, a vote of thanks was extended to the York County Historical Society for its valuable donation, and the Secretary, on motion of Mr. Hostetter, was instructed to extend the thanks of the Society to the Y. M. C. A. for the use of the room in which the Society has held its meeting for two months.

On motion of Mr. Diffenderffer, the sum of \$25 was ordered given to the Librarian for his uses and for the purchase of books as he deemed necessary.

Adjourned.

In Memoriam.

During the year four members of this Society died. Below will be found brief sketches of them:

REV. J. DARMSTAETTER.

Rev. Jacob Darmstaetter died at his home, in this city, Friday, July 2, 1909, from diabetes, after an illness of a few months. He was forty-six years old. The deceased was a son of the late Rev. J. A. Darmstaetter, of Columbia. He was a graduate of the Columbia High School and the Lutheran College of Springfield,



Ill., and later of the Mt. Airy Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia. He was ordained to the ministry in 1885 at Allentown. In addition to assisting his father for a year at St. Paul's Church, Columbia, he served a charge at Lock Haven for nine

years; was for six years pastor of the Paradise Church, at York, pastor of the Rohrerstown and Chestnut Hill churches six years, and upon coming to Lancaster was provisional pastor of St. Mark's Church, on Freiberg street, and St. Paul's Mission, Dillerville. Meantime, from 1901 to 1904, he was instructor of German in the Lancaster High School and was Principal of the Mulberry street schools. Rev. Darmstaetter was a fine German scholar, and frequently acted as interpreter in legal matters. He was an active worker all his life, interested in various civic and religious matters. He was an active member of the Lancaster County Historical Society, and was also a member of the Pennsylvania German Society. His mother, wife and two sons, Adolph C. and Hugo J., survive.

B. EZRA HERR.

B. Ezra Herr died suddenly at his home, in West Lampeter township, Lancaster county, Monday, December 13, 1909. Mr. Herr was born in 1842 in the house in which he died and had resided all of his life. He was a son of the late Christian and Mary Herr, and a direct lineal descendant of Hans Herr, the pioneer of the family in America. He belonged to that branch of the family who for generations never departed from the original seat of the ancestral acres, and all of his life he followed the pursuit in which they became famous, that of agriculture. He was intensely interested in the cause of public school education, and for many years was a member of the School Board of West Lampeter township. Mr. Herr was a man of pronounced literary ability. His reading covered a wide latitude, and he possessed a remarkable memory. In his earlier years he was also an extensive traveler, and he enjoyed personal acquaintanceship with many men of note. Mr. Herr is survived by one daughter, Maude, wife of Ralph Haverstick, now residing in Rock Island, Ill., and a son, Clyde, at home. One brother, Mr. Amaziah Herr, of Strasburg, and two sisters, Mrs. Addie Foreman, of this city, and Mrs. Louisa Nissley, of Perry county, also survive.

CHARLES A. FON DERSMITH.

Charles Allen Fon Dersmith died on April 12, 1909, after a long illness. He was born July 24, 1846, and was a son of Henry Clay and Anna Maria Burg Fon Dersmith. He was one of the city's foremost men in everything that related to its interests. He was one of the first to invest in the city's first electric light company. He was one of the organizers of the Hamilton Watch Company, and from 1883 to 1899 was one of the owners of the Eden paper mill. For years he was a Director of the Marietta Turnpike Company. He was largely interested in organizing the Lancaster Board

of Trade. He was connected with the Farmers' National Bank and Farmers' Trust Company for many years, being cashier at the time of his death. In religious matters he was a devoted Lutheran, a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, of which he was a vestryman and elder. He was a Trustee of Muhlenberg College, one of the prominent educational institutions of the Lutheran Church. Among other positions of honored trust he was a member of the Board of Home Missions attached to the Lutheran Ministerium of Pennsylvania. He was Trustee of the Ann C. Witmer Home, and was a member of the Board of Directors of the Y. M. C. A. In Masonic circles he was a member of Columbia Lodge, F. and A. M.; Royal Arch Chapter, R. A. M.; Thrice Illustrious Master of Goodwin Council, Royal Select Master Masons, and Past Commander of Lancaster Commandery, No. 13, Knights Templar. Mr. Fon Dersmith was one of the heartiest supporters of and workers for the Lancaster General Hospital, of which he was one of the founders, in 1893.

SAM MATT FRIDY.

Sam Matt Fridy died at his home, at Mountville, April 26, 1909 after an illness of some time. He was born at Ironville, March 11, 1837. His great-grandfather, Jacob Fridy, came to America from Baden, Germany. The father of Sam Matt Fridy was John Fridy, who died in 1866, and his mother was before marriage Miss Elizabeth Musser. His first office was as Justice of the Peace in West Hempfield township in 1862. He was chosen an assistant to General James L. Reynolds, Commissioner of Drafts, and while in that position Mr. Fridy helped to make the first enrollment and the first draft in this county. His remarkably fine penmanship was a distinguishing characteristic which in later years became known all over the State. Mr. Fridy's next service was in Washington, D. C., where he was in the Quartermaster General's office of the War Department, where he had charge of the accounts. He served a term as Prothonotary of Lancaster County, and was for a number of years Collector of Internal Revenue of the Ninth District. For several years he was Deputy Auditor General at Harrisburg, and he had the honor of being the first Burgess of Mountville. He was a Trustee of the Millersville Normal School and was affiliated with the Masonic fraternity.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY FOR 1910.

President,

GEORGE STEINMAN.

Vice Presidents,

F. R. DIFFENDERFFER, Litt.D.

JOSEPH H. DUBBS, D.D.

Secretary,

CHARLES B. HOLLINGER.

Corresponding Secretary,

MISS MARTHA B. CLARK.

Treasurer.

A. K. HOSTETTER.

Librarian.

CHARLES T. STEIGERWALT.

Executive Committee.

RICHARD M. REILLY, ESQ., W. U. HENSEL, ESQ., GEORGE
F. K. ERISMAN, D. B. LANDIS, H. FRANK ESHLEMAN, ESQ.,
MRS. SARAH B. CARPENTER, MONROE B. HIRSH, MISS LOT-
TIE BAUSMAN, L. B. HERR and JOHN L. SUMMY.

ANNUAL REPORT OF SECRETARY.

Lancaster, Pa., Jan. 14, 1910.

I take great pleasure in herewith submitting my first annual report as Secretary of the Lancaster County Historical Society.

It is with much gratification that I am thus permitted to review the work accomplished by the Society during 1909—a year marked by great progress. That period will stand out prominently in the annals of the organization as having witnessed a notable achievement which in every sense carried out the true historic spirit and purposes for which this Society was formed. The Robert Fulton centenary was an event that has brought the Lancaster County Historical Society to a position in the front rank of similar societies and won for it widespread recognition. As befitting this notable event, the Society issued in permanent form a very full and interesting account of the centenary and which made probably the largest pamphlet we have yet issued. Another interesting pamphlet was that devoted to the Lincoln centenary.

Ten regular monthly meetings were held, in addition to the annual outing at Lititz, and at these regular meetings were read eleven original papers, specially prepared by members. These were in addition to the annual reports, the account of the Fulton celebration and reports of monthly meetings, the whole combined into a volume of 287 pages—the thirteenth—very profusely illustrated. In point of illustrations (there are sixteen) the volume is one of the handsomest ever issued by the Society. Our monthly pamphlets are steadily increasing in value, as is evidenced by the demand for many of the early issues. The suggestion was made during one of our regular meetings that a certain number of each issue of the pamphlets be filed away by the Society, and the suggestion will be acted upon.

During the year twenty-one new members were elected. Four passed away, and, with those dropped for non-payment of dues, the present membership is 216, the same total as last year. Accompanying this report are sketches of the deceased members, Charles A. Fon Dersmith, Sam Matt Fridy, B. Ezra Herr and Rev. Jacob Darmstaetter. In the death of the latter the Society lost a very active member.

The question of permanent quarters was discussed during the year, but for the present, at least, the matter has been settled. Through arrangements made with the Trustees of the Smith Free Library Building, the Society will have better quarters for its meetings and library, changes in the building bringing about this

situation. A committee of the Society has been appointed to rearrange our library, and when this is completed we will be most comfortably quartered.

If there is one point on which the Society has not come up to the standard of previous years it is on the question of original papers submitted. As previously stated, eleven papers were read during the year, while in 1908 there were eighteen. Our members, with one or two exceptions, do not appear to have given the attention to this part of our work that its importance demands, and it is to be hoped that during the present year there will be a more liberal response in this direction.

The attendance at our meetings has been fair, but the proportion of what might be termed active members is small. I am compelled to say, with much regret, that there are many members who rarely, if ever, attend a monthly meeting. While their interest in the Society is not questioned, it would be very encouraging to those who attend the sessions from month to month and work for the advancement of the Society to have the presence, at least, of more of the membership.

With the wish that the year just opened will witness still greater accomplishments by our Society, I remain,

C. B. HOLLINGER,
Secretary.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF SECRETARY.**Receipts.**

| | |
|--|----------------|
| From A. K. Hostetter, former Secretary..... | \$20.37 |
| Pamphlets sold to A. K. Hostetter..... | 8.70 |
| Pamphlets sold to W. L. Hershey, Miss Baldwin, M. Myers and A. K. Hostetter | 5.80 |
| Total receipts | \$34.87 |

Expenditures.

| | |
|---|----------------|
| To W. L. Zahm, dinging pamphlet and postage..... | \$ 5.12 |
| To W. L. Zahm, dinging, postage and postage for Secretary.. | 8.66 |
| To W. L. Zahm, dinging and postage..... | 4.66 |
| To W. L. Zahm, dinging and postage..... | 4.74 |
| To W. L. Zahm, dinging and postage..... | 4.70 |
| Total expenditures | \$27.88 |
| Balance in bank | \$ 6.99 |

Postage Account of Secretary.

| | |
|----------------------|---------------|
| Receipts | \$4.00 |
| Paid out | .54 |
| Balance | \$3.46 |

The undersigned Auditors, appointed to audit the foregoing accounts, do hereby certify we find the same correct, and the balance in the hands of the Secretary, \$6.99.

MARTHA B. CLARK,
GEO. F. K. ERISMAN,
D. F. MAGEE.

ANNUAL REPORT OF TREASURER.

To the Officers and Members of the Lancaster County Historical Society:

Your Treasurer begs leave to make the following report, to wit:
January 1, 1909, amount overdrawn and due the Treasurer,

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Dr. Houston | \$.02 |
| Amount received in payment of dues..... | \$233.00 |
| Appropriation from Lancaster County..... | 200.00 |
| Amount expended for which orders were drawn by the President and Secretary..... | 273.04 |
| Amount on hand January 1, 1910..... | 159.94 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$433.00 \$433.00 |

The last annual report of the Treasurer showed a balance on hand of \$29.45, but the subsequent discovery of an error caused the above result.

Respectfully submitted,
A. K. HOSTETTER,
Treasurer.

(Seal.)

We, the undersigned Auditors, appointed to audit this account, report we find the foregoing account correct, and the balance in hands of Treasurer, \$159.94.

MARTHA B. CLARK,
GEO. F. K. ERISMAN,
D. F. MAGEE.

